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nt of Agriculture h inspection Service

Registration of Companies Exporting U.S. Grain





Legislative Background

In 1916. Congress passes the United States Grain Standards Act (the Act) to establish a uniform national grain grading program. Historically, this national inspection system has played an important role in the movement of grain in interstitle and foreign markets. In 1976. Congress amended the Act to strengthen the U.S. grain marketing system. The key provision of this amendment was the creation of the Federal Grain inspection. Service (FGIS), a new inspection agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

FGIS administers uniform, nationwide programs for officially inspecting and weighing grain, as provided for in the Act. The Act requires official certification of all grain exported from the United States. Grain is defined as wheat corn, rye, oats, barley, flaxseed, sorghum, soybeans, trincale, sunflower seeds, mixed grain, and canolic

The 1976 amendments to the Accalso required companies exporting U.S. grain to register with FGIS. These registration requirements established individual and corporate accountability of firms involved in foreign and interstate commerce grain trade. The Acc provides administrative, chil. and/or criminal penalties for firms that export grain without being registered.

Who Must Register

The law and regulations require all individuals, sertnerships, corporations, associations, or other entities that annually buy, blandle, weigh, or transport 15,000 or more metric tons of grain for sale in foreign commence to reporter with FGIS. Similar criteria and reporting requirements apply if the export iron owns 10 percent or more interest in any other husiness that is engaged in interstate commerce grain unide.

Registration requirements apply to:

- * grain elevators, warehouses, or handing facilities that foad or ship any bulk or sacked grain in a final currior in which the grain is to be transported from the United States; and
- businesses that acquire ownership of grain and then directly export the grain, or cruse the grain to exported, from the United States without further hamiling by a grain elevator, was chouse, or grain storage or handling facility.

Businesses excluded from registrious entered include those that export less than 15,300 metric tons of grain annually, primipora grain without having a financial interest in it, or purchase grain for feeding and processing numbers (but not for revelling) and only incidentally or occasionally self-the grain.

How to Register

To register, applicants must submit an application form (FGIS-945), which contains miornation on ownership, names of officers and directors, and locations of grain operations. The submission of this information does not infringe upon any trade secrets or other universe business matters.

The regularation program is fee supported, and applicants must pay an annual registration fee to cover administration costs. The charge is based on the nature of the operation: \$135 for foreign commerce grain trade, or \$270 if the firm is involved in both foreign and interstate grain trade.

Upon receipt of the application and the fee FGIS issues a Certificate of Registration.

Registration Renewal

Registration is an annual process, and all peruficaces terminate December 31 of the year issued, Approximately 3 months prior to remination, EGIS notifies each registrant of the pending expiration and requests the submission of a new application. Do you export U.S. grain?

Are you registered with the Federal Grain Inspection Service?

Should you be?



For information about registration, contact:

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